

Montana Laboratory Services Bureau (MTLSB)

Biological and Chemical Threat Agent Testing Policy

November 2006

Overview

All potential biological and chemical threat samples must first be evaluated by local Law Enforcement (LE) according to local policy to determine if a *credible* threat exists. If a biological threat exists, prescreening of samples for explosive, radiological and chemical hazards is required prior to submitting the samples to MTLSB. Environmental samples that are determined to be *non-credible* biological threats by LE will not be accepted for biological testing. The complainants may arrange for biological testing at a private laboratory at their own expense (see attached list).

If individuals are exposed to a suspect chemical incident, and the threat is credible, then blood and urine samples should be collected as outlined in the attached Centers for Disease Control & Prevention guidance (v.10/6/2006). Environmental samples that are a credible threat for hazardous chemicals must also be prescreened for explosive and radiological hazards prior to submission for testing. Chemical samples may be tested at MTLSB. Please consult with MTLSB regarding the feasibility of testing and sample collection criteria.

All samples submitted by LE for testing of biological or chemical threat agents will be considered as evidence of a crime. After testing is completed, samples will be returned to local LE or to the FBI.

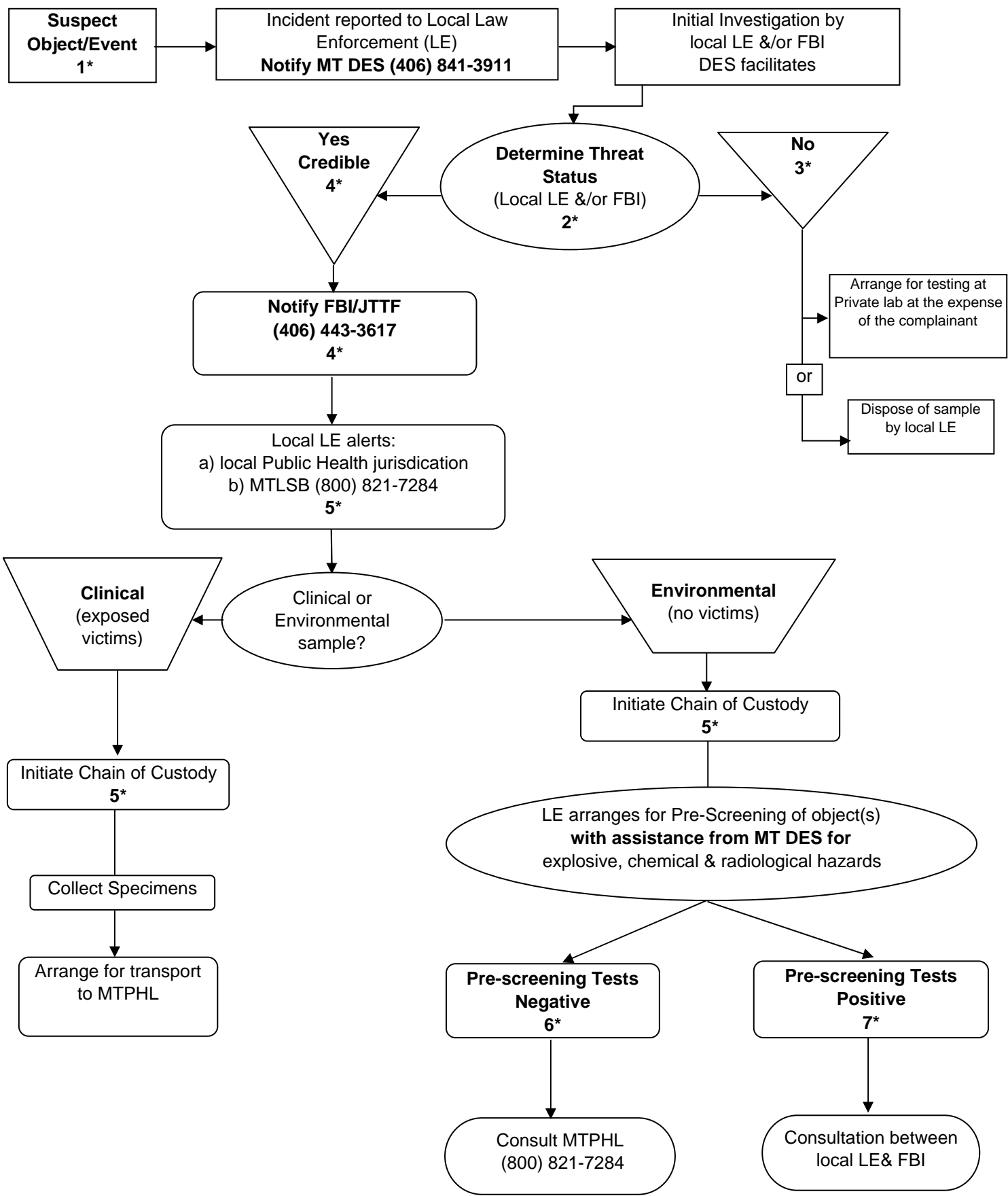
Organization Roles & Responsibilities

1. Contact the Montana Disaster Emergency Services (DES) Duty Officer at **406-841-3911** to report the incident, and to do the following:
 - A. Request assistance in evaluation of the threat
 - B. Arrange for pre-screening of the sample by HazMat if necessary
2. Notify local public health department. Indicate the contact person's name and telephone number on the Chain of Custody form
3. If the suspect object/event has been deemed "credible", notify MTLSB at **1-800-821-7284** to:
 - A. Consult with the laboratory scientist on any sample collection procedures and/or shipping and delivery requirements
 - B. Initiate local Chain of Custody
 - C. Arrange for sample delivery by MTLSB courier or according to local preparedness transport protocols

Attachments

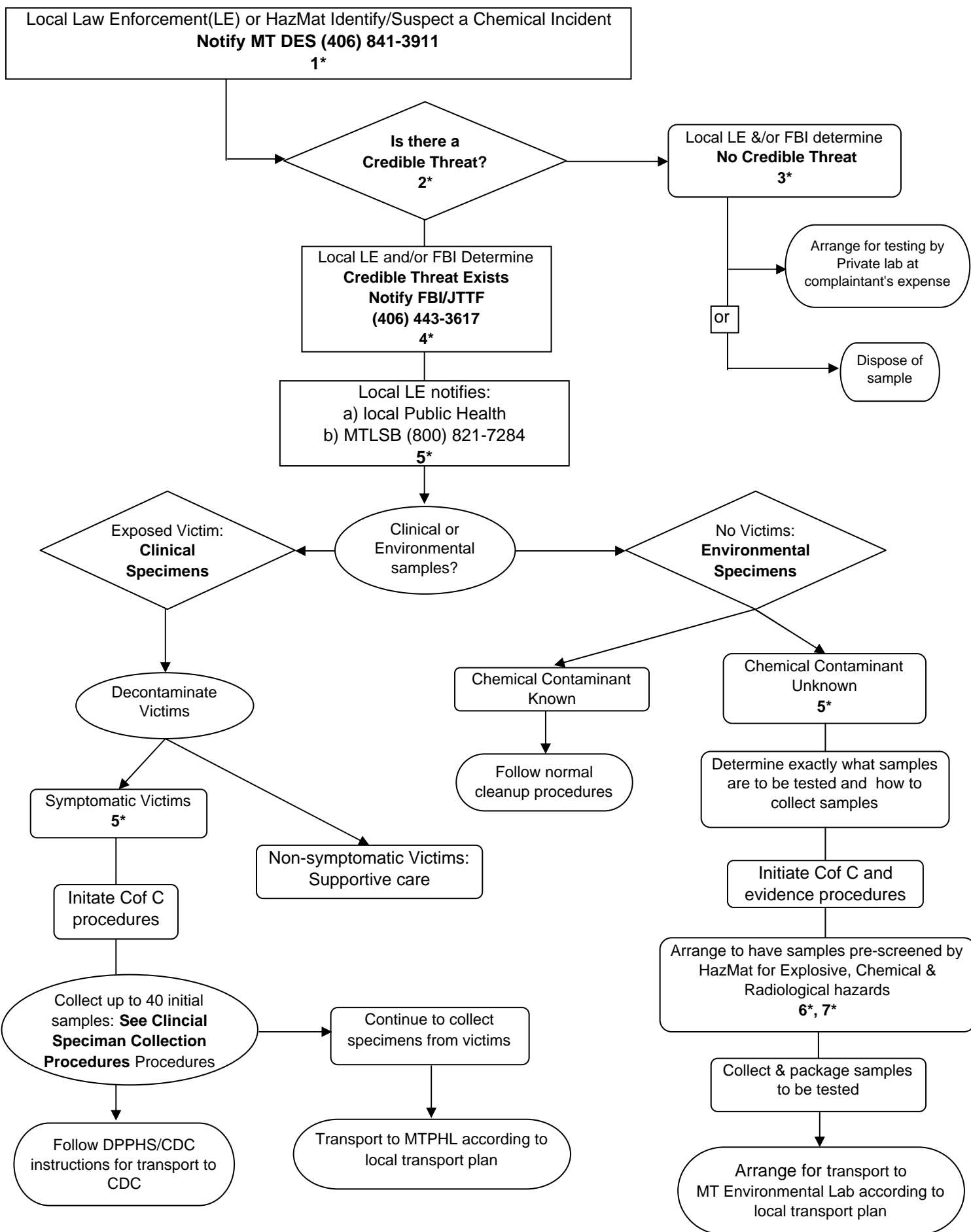
1. Chemical and Biological Flow Diagrams
2. Supporting informational notes for diagrams
3. List of private laboratories for biological testing
4. Collection and shipping instructions for human samples

Procedures for Handling Suspect Biological Threat Samples



***See "Guidance for Assessing Suspect Biological or Chemical Environmental Threats"**

Procedures for Handling Suspect Chemical Threat Samples



* See "Guidance for Assessing Suspect Biological or Chemical Environmental Threats"

Guidance for Assessing Suspect Biological or Chemical Environmental Threats

INTENT: The following general guidance is intended to assist first responders, including law enforcement, fire departments, and public health, who may be involved in assessing or providing information to others about whether or not a suspicious object or event presents a “credible threat”.

	Finding	Definition/Action Items
1	Suspicious object or event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declared by a perpetrator: e.g., an object(s) alleged to contain an agent which will expose those opening it and those in the vicinity• Advance indication (Overt): something might occur as it has been suspected or recognized elsewhere• No announcement (Covert): detection depends on preparedness and education; training includes a high index of suspicion to consider something unusual and willingness to communicate concern to appropriate personnel for consideration
2A	Person responding to object or event	<p>Evaluate situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is anyone at the scene a likely target of a threat?• Is there a logical explanation for the presence of the item(s) causing concern?• If there is a spill, does anyone on site remember anyone spilling something?• Did anyone witness the arrival of a suspicious item? Was it a usual source of delivery (FedEx, UPS)? Was it received in the usual manner?• Is there a phone number available to call the sender of the item and find out what was enclosed? Is the sender someone you usually get mail from?

2B	<p>If there is powder on or in the mail item and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the item is not suspicious for a bomb, the sender is known, there is no articulated threat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend that the caller contact the sender for an explanation. <p>Powdery materials are frequently found on mail because mail picks up dust in mailrooms, mail boxes, trucks, and sorting facilities. Envelopes shed tiny flakes of paper when sliced or torn open or dried correction fluid flakes off. Commercial printers and bulk mailers use powdery material, including corn starch to keep pages, envelopes and magazines from sticking together.</p>
2C	<p>Important information to give to complainant and others potentially exposed depending on the situation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not touch, shake or empty the contents If anything spills out, do not try to clean it up Do not sniff, touch or taste it Cover any spilled contents with paper or waste basket so it will not be disturbed by air or movement around it If no visible powder, leakage or oily film, you might instruct caller to put each object in a separate plastic bag or container and place it on a stable surface depending on the situation <u>Use a separate bag for each object of concern</u>; LE will help with labeling, if necessary, during the investigation Prevent others from coming near the area; leave the room and close door if available. Remember, this could be a crime scene Anyone who handled the item is to wash their hands well with soap and water; blow your nose to clear your nasal passages; dispose of the tissue in plastic bag, if possible. Wash your hands again. If any material spilled out onto clothing, further decontamination will be necessary. Complainant or supervisor should provide a list of all people in the area and give to LE

2D	<p>At the scene, the first responder (LE or FD) will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the scene (SOP), • Prevent exposure to additional persons, • Perform an initial scene assessment. 	<p>LE or FD could decide that the potential severity (moderate to high risk) of the situation requires an Incident Command according to your local Emergency Response Plan, and undertake certain actions until information obtained indicates that a lesser response is safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish hot, warm, and cold zones • Determine appropriate level of PPE • Deny entry to scene and preserve evidence for each individual object(s) • Shut down air handling and any mail processing machinery if needed • Isolate exposed individuals – proceed as in FD and EMS SOP • Decontaminate individuals and transport to hospital if necessary (FD and EMS have standard SOP) • Ongoing evidence collection • Scene decontamination if necessary
2E	<p>Suspicious characteristics</p> <p>Local LE does initial screening and risk assessment to identify whether the suspect object(s) is a credible threat. FBI can assist in joint assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatening letter and/or history of threatening letters • An articulated threat, either explicit or implied • Item is suspicious for a bomb or other hazards (ticking, wires visible, unexplained material leaking from package) • Threatening phone call related to suspicious object • Unexpected delivery; fictitious or no return address • Unusual point of origin; possibly mailed from a foreign company • Excessive postage; postmarked location doesn't match return address • No postage or no canceling of postage stamp • Misspelled word(s), particularly a common word or place • Poor handwritten or typed address; cut and paste lettering • Marked with restrictive endorsement; e.g., "Personal" or "Confidential" • Lopsided or uneven envelope/package item • Excessive weight, rigid or bulky • Excessive security material; e.g., tape or string • Package is hand-wrapped so can only be opened one way • Small holes; vapor, dust/powder

3	<p>Suspect object(s)/event determined NOT to be credible threat</p> <p>If there is <i>not</i> an articulated threat (explicit or implied) and if the item is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not suspicious for a bomb (e.g. ticking, protruding wires or foil, or unexplained material leaking from package) no powder or other foreign material present the caller is concerned only because the mail item is unfamiliar to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend that the caller place the item in a plastic bag and discard it Complainant may arrange for testing of a <i>biological</i> sample at a private laboratory, at the expense of the complainant Local LE may dispose of the sample according to appropriate cleanup procedures <p><i>Chemical</i> samples may be accepted at the State of Montana Environmental Laboratory at the laboratory's discretion or at a private chemical laboratory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific samples to be tested must be identified Specific analyses must be requested in consultation with the State of Montana Environmental lab Testing expenses are the sole responsibility of the complainant
4	<p>Credible threat is evident and involves a biological or chemical agent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) is to be notified immediately at (406) 443-3617 <p>FBI can help LE with a joint assessment and advise LE if FBI involvement is necessary.</p>
5	<p>The following are necessary actions for LE when an incident has been ruled a CREDIBLE THREAT of probable biological or chemical nature.</p> <p>Please consult the MTL SB at (406) 444-3444 or (800) 821-7284 for sample packaging instructions or any other questions.</p> <p>Items submitted to the MTL SB <i>must</i> be pre-screened for explosives, chemicals (volatiles) and radiological materials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify the local public health (PH) department: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document on Chain of Custody (C of C) form PH can help with immediate antibiotic post-exposure prophylaxis for exposed individuals, specimen handling and transport, surveillance, health information and with communication with the public. Collect evidence to be submitted for testing; collector must sign C of C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Double bag</i> each <i>biological</i> object(s); seal with evidence tape; initial and date tape; include absorbent material; attach Biohazard label <i>Triple bag</i> each <i>chemical</i> object(s); seal with evidence tape; initial and date tape; include absorbent material; attach Biohazard label Do not submit any material other than that to be tested Attach C of C form to the outside of the sample container Arrange for pre-screening of object(s) with assistance from MT DES Identify exactly what the sample should be tested for. Multiple samples will contaminate each other and compromise analytical testing. Samples whose integrity has been compromised will <i>not</i> be accepted for testing. Include completed MTPHL Requisition form for clinical specimens

6	Pre-screening tests are all Negative	<p>LE and HazMat sign appropriate line on C of C form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With PH, arrange for transport of sample to MTPHL according to the local transport plan • Notify MTPHL of the approximate time of arrival; (800) 821-7284 • Sample is signed over on the C of C form to a laboratory scientist at MTPHL <p>When testing is completed, LE will arrange for pick up of the evidence. Chain of Custody form acknowledges LE is the final recipient of the evidence.</p>
7	One or more of the Pre-screening tests are Positive	Local LE, local and state public health officials, and FBI consult on the next step.

The following is a list of private laboratories who will accept specimens for testing of suspect *biological* agents. The complainant is responsible for contacting the laboratories, making arrangements for sample transport, and for all financial obligations to the private laboratory.

Micro Test Laboratories, Inc.

104 Gold Street
P.O. Box 848
Agawam, MA 01001
(800) 631-1680
<http://www.anthraxtestingservices.com>

Aerobiology Laboratory Associates, Inc.

102F Woodwinds Industrial Court
Cary, North Carolina 27511
(919) 463-0522
<http://www.aerobiology.net>

Microbe Inotech Labs, Inc.

12133 Bridgeton Square
St. Louis, Missouri 63044-2616
(800) 688-9144
<http://www.microbeinotech.com>

Walter H. Carter, Inc

1927 Sourwood Drive
Dalton, GA 30720
706) 278-3202
<http://www.healthyairquality.com/wcanthrax.htm>

Pure Air Control Services

4911 Creekside Drive, Suite C
Clearwater, FL 33760
(800) 422-7873
<http://www.pureaircontrols.com/anthraxtest.htm>